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N THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A method for rapidly isolating nucleic acid from a nucleic acid source comprising the steps of:
 - a) lysing the nucleic acid source,
 - b) filtering the lysate through a porous matrix consisting of a material based on silica or of a silica coated material to bind the nucleic acid to the porous matrix in the absence of an alcohol and in the absence of a chaotropic salt,
 - c) eluting the nucleic acid from the porous matrix of step b) by using an aqueous buffer solution.
2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid is DNA.
3. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein the DNA is genomic DNA.
4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1-~~or~~3, wherein the nucleic acid is of a size ranging from about 10 kbp to about 50 kbp.
5. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid source is any sort of biological tissue or cell material.
6. (Original) A method according to claim 5, wherein the nucleic acid source is mammalian cells, organs, biopsies, blood, serum, muscle, bone marrow, bacteria, yeast, and/or any sort of plant tissue or cells, like seeds or leaves.
7. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid source is lysed using a buffer not containing a chaotropic salt and not containing an alcohol.
8. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein a RNase and/or a protease and/or lysozyme is added to one or more of the steps of claim 1.
9. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the porous matrix comprises a siliceous oxide coated surface.
10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1-~~or~~9, wherein the porous matrix is a

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porous silica membrane.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~9 or 10~~, wherein the porous matrix comprises pores having the size ranging from 0,2 μ m to 3,2 μ m.
12. (Original) A method according to claim 11, wherein the porous matrix comprises pores having the size ranging from 0,3 μ m to 2,8 μ m.
13. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein the porous matrix comprises pores having the size ranging from 0,5 μ m to 2,0 μ m.
14. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the isolated nucleic acid serves as a template in a subsequent application like AFLP, RFLP, microsatellite analysis, southern blot, PCR or quantitative real-time PCR.
15. (Original) A method according to claim 14, wherein the isolated nucleic acid serves as a template in a subsequent PCR or subsequent quantitative real-time PCR application.
16. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the lysate of step a) of claim 1 is centrifuged to eliminate cell debris from the lysate prior to step b) of claim 1.
17. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein one or more washing steps are performed subsequent to step b) of claim 1 and prior to step c) of claim 1.
18. (Original) A method according to claim 17, wherein the washing step is performed using a washing buffer.
19. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the porous matrix of step b) of claim 1 is a membrane embedded in a single column filter tube.
20. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the porous matrix of step b) of claim 1 is a membrane integrated in a multi-well filter plate.
21. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claims 19 and 20~~ claim 19, wherein the membrane is assembled in one or more layers.
22. (Original) A method according to claim 21, wherein the pore size of one layer differs from the pore size of the other layer(s).
23. (Currently Amended) A kit for performing the method according to ~~claims 1 to 22~~ claim 1 comprising at least:

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- a) a porous matrix consisting of a material based on silica or of a silica coated material
- b) a lysing buffer containing no alcohol and containing no chaotropic salt
- c) an elution buffer.